

previously stated in regard to similar provisions.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,

September 30, 2008.

NOTE: H.R. 2638, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 110–329.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Fitr *September 30, 2008*

I send greetings to Muslims everywhere celebrating Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast.

During the three-day festival of Eid al-Fitr, Muslims celebrate the completion of their fast and the blessings of a renewed faith. On this special occasion, families and friends around the globe gather to share traditional foods and congratulate each other on meeting the test of Ramadan.

Our Nation has millions of citizens who practice Islam, and our country benefits

from their many contributions. This holiday is also an opportunity for Muslims to reflect on Islam's vibrant culture, which has enriched civilization for centuries.

Laura and I send our best wishes. Eid Mubarak.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Following a Briefing on the Security Situation in Afghanistan *October 1, 2008*

I want to thank General McKiernan for giving me a briefing on Afghanistan.

Economic Stabilization Legislation

Before I talk about our visit, I do want to say this: I appreciate Senator Harry Reid's leadership in the United States Senate when it comes to the financial rescue plan. I also appreciate Mitch McConnell's leadership as well. The Senate will be voting on a very important measure tonight. It's a—the rescue plan—the bill has been improved by raising—well, by other things, raising—temporarily raising the cap of—on FDIC insurance.

It's very important for Members to take this bill very seriously. It's important to get credit flowing again so that small businesses in our communities will be able to finance

their operations, so that local municipalities will be able to get the money they need to take care of the needs of local citizens, so that States will be able to meet their needs.

It's very important for us to pass this piece of legislation so as to stabilize the situation so that it doesn't get worse and that our fellow citizens lose wealth and work.

The Senate is going to take this bill up tonight. I'm hopeful they'll pass it, and then the House will have a chance to vote on it Friday morning. As I say, the bill is different, it's been improved, and I'm confident it will pass.

General, thank you for coming. I appreciate your service to the country. General McKiernan is briefing me on the situation